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DER POSTPONING THE CERTIFICATION OF EXPORT BEEF TO  
MARCH 15, 1897.

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DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, D. C., June 19, 1896.

Whereas section 2 of the act of Congress, approved March 3, 1891, as amended in the act approved March 2, 1895, provides as follows:

"SEC. 2. That the Secretary of Agriculture shall also cause to be made a careful inspection of all live cattle, the meat of which, fresh, salted, canned, corned, packed, cured, or otherwise prepared, is intended for exportation to any foreign country, at such times and places, and in such manner as he may think proper, with a view to ascertain whether said cattle are free from disease, and their meat sound and wholesome, and may appoint inspectors who shall be authorized to give an official certificate clearly stating the condition in which such cattle and meat are found, and no clearance shall be given to any vessel having on board any fresh, salted, canned, corned, or packed beef being the meat of cattle killed after the passage of this act for exportation to and sale in a foreign country from any port in the United States until the owner or shipper shall obtain from an inspector appointed under the provision of this act a certificate that said cattle were free from disease, and that their meat is sound and wholesome."

And whereas it has been found impossible to establish inspection prior to July 1, 1896, at all points where beef is prepared and packed for the export trade, and

Whereas legislation is pending modifying the requirement for certificates with all exported beef,

*It is ordered*, That the requirement of certificates shall be postponed until March 15, 1897. All orders and regulations of this Department inconsistent with this order are hereby revoked.

The greater part of the exported beef is now inspected and will be certified, and any Government desiring to secure inspected beef exclusively may do so by making the proper regulations. It is not, however, deemed practicable to exclude from exportation to countries which gladly accept it the beef which the retail butchers find unsalable because it is cut from inferior portions of the carcass. Much of this beef has been inspected, but there is no way of identifying it after the carcass has been cut. As a considerable number of firms collect these special cuts from the retailers and pack them for exportation, to enforce the statute as it stands would destroy their business. An amendment to the law which will avoid this undesirable result has been favorably reported from the proper committee in each branch of the Congress, and I deem it my duty to postpone the order requiring certificates until this bill has been duly considered and acted upon by the law-making power of the Government.

*J. Sterling Morton*

Secretary.

